

Inventions and Contributions Board (ICB) Award Program Overview

Tony Maturo, ICB Director

Jesse Midgett,
ICB Chief Technologist

Alexander Graham Bell once said:

“An inventor is someone who looks upon the world and is not content with things as they are. An inventor works to improve what he sees to benefit the world.”

This statement captures the NASA Program/Project community's unique characteristics of creativity and technical excellence,

ICB Mission

The Invention and Contribution Board (ICB) is tasked with identifying, encouraging and recognizing new technology contributors. The Space Act of 1958 created the ICB to encourage and cultivate the development of technologies for the nation's aeronautics and space community.

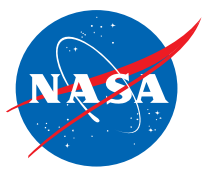




Basis in Public Law: The Space Act of 1958

CONTRIBUTIONS AWARDS

- Sec. 306. (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Administrator is authorized, upon his own initiative or upon application of any person, to make a monetary award, in such amount and upon such terms as he shall determine to be warranted, to any person (as defined by section 305) for any scientific or technical contribution to the Administration which is determined by the Administrator to have significant value in the conduct of aeronautical and space activities. **Each application made for any such award shall be referred to the Inventions and Contributions Board established under section 305 of this Act.**

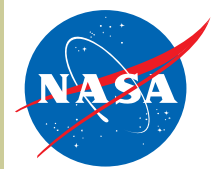


Governing Regulations

- 14CFR1240.100 : "...prescribes procedures for submitting applications for monetary awards to the Administrator of NASA for **scientific and technical contributions which have significant value in the conduct of aeronautical and space activities** pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2458, and establishes the awards program consistent with the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986, section 12, 15 U.S.C. 3710b(1). "

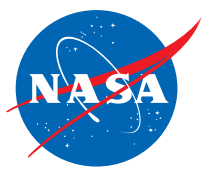
What can be awarded?

- 1240.103 Criteria.
 - (a) Only those contributions to NASA which have been:
 - (1) Used in a NASA program or adopted or sponsored or supported by NASA, and
 - (2) Found to have significant value in the conduct of aeronautical and space activities, will be recommended for award under this subpart.



Submission Process

- Invention is disclosed via eNTRe and given a New Technology Number (ABC-12345)
- Qualifying event occurs:
 1. Patent applied for
 2. Software initial release occurs
 3. Tech Brief article is approved
 4. Significant benefit to NASA occurs
- Awards Liaison Officer (ALO) obtains SSN and mailing address from inventors
- ALO enters electronic award request
- ICB staff verifies all aspects
- ICB Chair or ICB approves award
- Awards are paid by direct deposit or mailed check



Forms

- Entire request process from disclosure to award is electronic for Patent, Software and TechBriefs
- Board Award requires Questionnaire form 1329 submission
 1. Electronic document in editable format.
 2. Scanned signature pages emailed or faxed to ICB Staff
- Form 1329 is soon to be replaced with a web submission tool similar to eNTRe.

Initial Award Processing

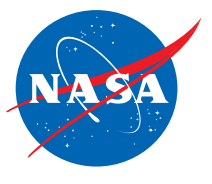
- Initial Awards:
 1. ICB CT verifies complete documentation for Patent, Software, TechBrief awards and enters approval code
 2. ICB Staff prepares package for Chief Engineer (ICB Chair) to sign
 3. ICB Staff enters payment export date-- always a Wednesday night on a pay week.
 4. NSSC processes payments
 5. Civil servants get Direct Deposit, minus tax deductions in with regular pay 16 days after export
 6. Contractors get checks 3+ days after export

Board Award Processing

- Board Awards:
 1. ICB staff verifies signatures are complete and forwards to Chief Technologist (CT)
 2. ICB CT reviews form 1329, summarizes, and estimates award value for Board Awards
 3. Board reviews evaluations offline
 4. Board meets to discuss or approve
 5. CT updates evals as needed
 6. Export date entered after Board Minutes are approved
 7. Awards over \$5000 go to Administrator for signature

Award Amounts

- Initial Awards
 1. Patent Application
\$1000 (or \$500 per multiple inventor)
 2. Initial Software Release
\$1000 (or \$500 per multiple inventor)
 3. Tech Brief draft approval
\$350 per inventor
- Board Award Nominations
\$500 to \$100,000
 - Routine Board Awards every other month
 - Yearly Competitions: Software of the Year
 Invention of the Year



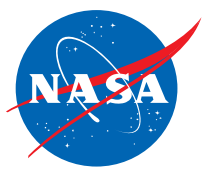
Invention of the Year

- Invention of the Year
 - Nominations and presentations given to ICB early in the year
 - Considers NASA Patents that have issued in the previous four years
 - Commercial and Government Categories can be awarded separately
 - Commercial winner can be submitted to external Intellectual Property Owners Association Inventor of the Year competition

Software of the Year

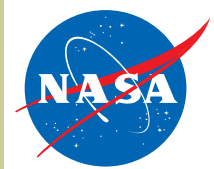
- Nominations submitted in early summer and reviewed in late summer
- Software Advisory Panel with reps from Centers ranks candidates based on material submitted and presented
- ICB sets amounts and final award standings





ALO Network

- ALO's find, qualify, and submit awards
- Electronic award request and qualifying info entered into TechTracS
- ICB verifies, approves, and processes
- Payments occur every two weeks
- NASA employees get direct deposit
- Contractors get checks from US Treasury



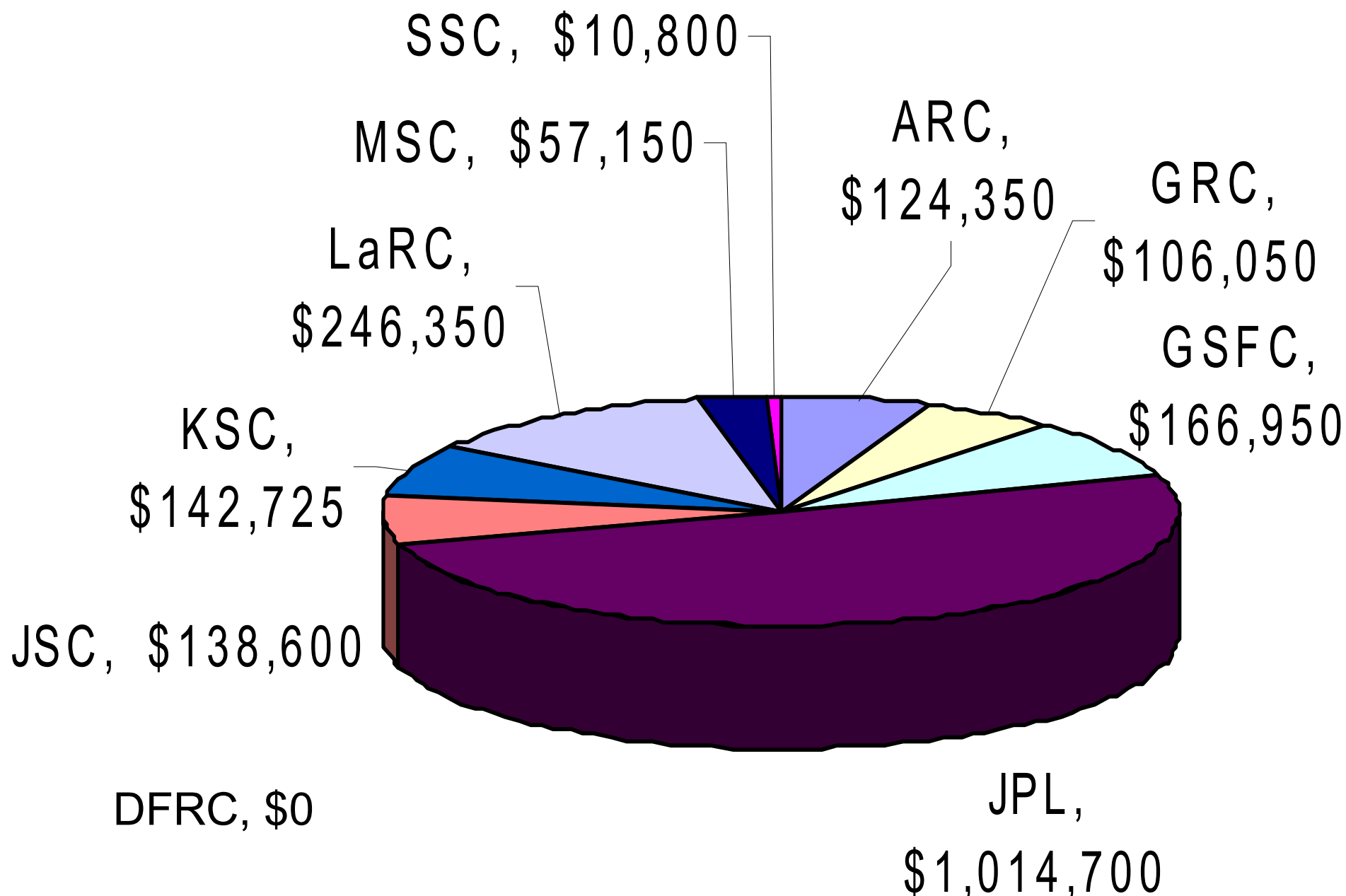
Award Liaison Officers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Robin Orans | ARC 650-604-5875 |
| Gregory Poteat | DFRC 661-276-3872 |
| Laurie Stauber | GRC 216-433-2820 |
| Dale L. Clarke | GSFC 301-286-2691 |
| Dr. Chris H. Jaggers | JPL 818-393-4904 |
| Kelli A. Graham | JSC 281-483-0077 |
| Carol A. Dunn | KSC 321-867-6381 |
| Sebrenna Young | LaRC 757-864-9474 |
| James J. McGroary | MSFC 256-544-0013 |
| Linda L. Hong | HQ 202-358-0462 |
| James Ray Bryant | SSC 228-688-3964 |

Awards Statistics

- 1575 NASA Tech Briefs authors were recognized.
- 529 patent holders were recognized.
- 697 software authors were recognized.
- 550 individuals received Board action awards for other types of contributions to NASA's aerospace endeavors.
- There were 16 Exceptional Cases-- inventions with at least one inventor who received an award of \$5000 or more.

Awards by Center



Outreach

- ICB publishes an Annual Report to the Administrator
- ICB Staff Director visits Centers
- Internal website hosted on NEN
<http://nen.nasa.gov/portal/site/llis/OCE/ICB/>
- External website hosted on OCE site can be reached via <http://icb.nasa.gov/>
- Press releases for Yearly Competitions
- Awards presented the following year at PM Challenge luncheon

Internal Website



NASA TV | NASA Employment

Customer Support | Site Help

NASA Engineering Network

NASA Engineering Network

NASA Domain

Lessons Learned

Employee Locator

Google

Search for

Search

Welcome to New NEN

Site Map | Login | Register

NEN Home

Organization Charts

Lessons Learned

Engineering Communities

Engineering Resources

Engineering Search

Program/Project Management

Office of the Chief Engineer

Inventions & Contributions Board (ICB)

APPEL

NESC

POPS Expertise Locator

About the Network

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Office of the Chief Engineer

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Award Requirements

To receive any ICB award, an invention must be reported by the

sponsoring Center and assigned a tracking number as an official indication that NASA has an intellectual property interest in the invention. This is done via **NASA's Electronic New Technology Reporting System (eNTRe)**.



Each inventor must provide a home address and Social Security or Tax ID number to the Center Awards Liaison Officer (ALO), who enters the information into the NASA Technology Tracking System (Tech TracS). To qualify for an award, inventors must also verify that an aerospace origin, tie, use or potential use exists for each technology.

Yearly Competitions

- Read about the **Yearly Competitions**, including Award Winners and Runners-up.
- **Download Award Application Forms**

2009 Meeting Dates

- Award Liaison Officers teleconferences will be held 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern on the following 2009 dates: January 14, March 25, May 20, July 15, and Sept. 9.
- Inventions and Contributions Board meetings will be held on the following 2009 dates: January 28, March 11, May 6, July 9, and August 19.

About the ICB

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Welcome to the Inventions and Contributions Board's site, the portal to imagination, transferring today's ideas into tomorrow's technologies. Oliver Wendell Holmes believed that "a man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." It is with this spirit that Congress passed the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, forming NASA and initiating the flow of its new technologies to the public.

As a NASA innovation source, the Inventions and Contributions Board (ICB) has over the past 50 years distributed millions of dollars for thousands of technologies that have enhanced the nation's space program and the individual citizen's quality of life. I invite you to review the information presented here and explore the contributions of the past, as documented in the ICB Annual Reports, to understand the "hows, whos, and whats" for your participation in the Inventions and Contributions Board process.

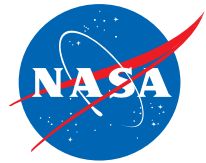
Operations of the ICB are governed by three sections of the United States Code of Federal Regulations: 14CFR1209, 14CFR1240, and 14CFR1245.

All award applications are submitted through the Awards Liaison Officers for the Center that sponsors the candidate technology (see Awards Liaison Officers contact list below).

More information about the Award categories and the Award Applications can be found on this page.

Primary ICB Contacts:

- Anthony J. Maturo, ICB Staff Director
- Jesse Midgett, ICB Technologist
- Iona Butler, ICB Records Manager
- Gail M. Sawyer, ICB Staff Specialist (Questions regarding



External Website

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Inventions and Contributions Board

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NASA Inventions and Contributions Board

Overview

Text Size [+](#) [-](#)

Average Rating: 3.6 / 5 (5 ratings)

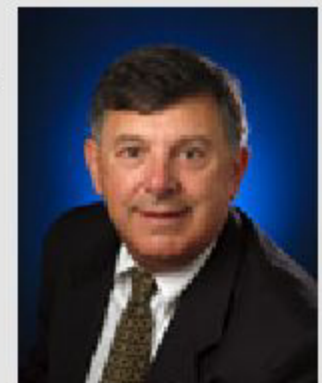
Inventions and Contributions Board

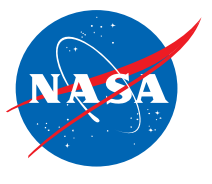
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As a NASA innovation source, the Inventions and Contributions Board (ICB) has over the past 50 years distributed millions of dollars for thousands of technologies that have enhanced the nation's space program and the individual citizen's quality of life. The ICB has issued over 98,000 awards to applicants from NASA and other U.S. government agencies, as well as from industry and academia. The Space Act limits the amount of an award for any single contribution to no more than \$100,000 without notification of Congress. ICB operations are governed by three sections of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations: [14CFR1209](#), [14CFR1240](#), and [14CFR1245](#).

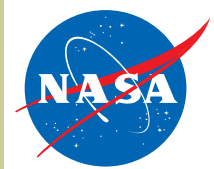
The ICB Board is chaired by the [NASA Chief Engineer](#) and is composed of representatives from across the Agency, who reflect NASA's finest technical talent and whose expertise covers more than 40 fields of science and technology. The Board is assisted by four staff members, based at [NASA Headquarters](#) in Washington, DC, who carry out the administrative activities of the awards process.

The ICB also acts as the approval body for grants of waiver of NASA's rights to contractor inventions. Changes in the law in 1984 automatically grant waivers for small businesses, certain not-for-profit organizations, and universities. NASA, as a title agency, is vested with all rights to inventions by large contractors, unless a waiver is granted by the ICB.





(Review of Form 1329 and 1329A Questionnaires)



Board Award Evaluation Criteria

(The current form 1329 is still used, but a new online form will be coming this year.)

Basic Principles will be the same:

BASIS OF AWARD: Value of the contribution to the United States

Threshold Evaluation: Does the contribution have significant value in the conduct of aeronautical and space activities?

☐ YES ☐ NO

(If it is a re-evaluation, concentrate on changes since last review.)

Board Award Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

1. Value of Intellectual Contribution

Criteria. Extent to which the contribution advances the United States' knowledge or understanding of a particular field. This includes fundamental knowledge whether or not any practical application is readily apparent. It also includes intellectual contributions to advanced development and to technology, which includes the systems, methods and techniques relevant to a particular field.

Evidence. Both the quality and quantity of publications, including how frequently contributors' articles are cited in the literature. Awards given for the contribution. Patents.



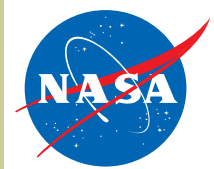
Board Award Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

2. Demonstrated and Potential Practical Value

A. Present Use NASA/Government

Criteria. Extent to which the contribution is currently being used by NASA and other federal government programs.

Evidence. Number and size of programs using the contribution. Program management's evaluation of how important the contribution is to the program.



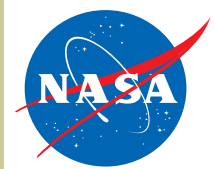
Board Award Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

2. (cont.)

B. Potential Use NASA/Government

Criteria. Extent to which the contribution could be used by NASA and other federal programs in the future.

Evidence. Interest shown by other programs in using the contribution.
Applications to which the contribution may be put.



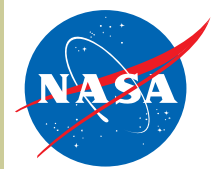
Board Award Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

2. (cont.)

C. Present Use U.S. Industry

Criteria. Extent to which the contribution is currently being used by U.S. industry.

Evidence. Number and size of companies using the contribution. Company management's evaluation of how important the contribution is to the company. Economic value of contribution to the companies (sales/profit). Is the contribution used across different sectors of industry.



Board Award Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

2. (cont.)

D. Potential Use U.S. Industry

Criteria. Extent to which the contribution could be used by U.S. industry the future.

Evidence. Number and size of companies that could use the contribution. Companies that have shown an interest in the contribution. Potential economic value of contribution to the companies (sales/profit). Can the contribution be used across different sectors of industry.

Award Valuation Case Study

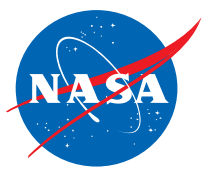
Award Adjustment: Sum expended by applicant for development minus compensation received for U.S. use (except U.S. civil service salary)

Actual scoring methodology will be similar to current.

Example case: Space Compatible Toaster

(Review of 1329)

(Live walk-through ICONS evaluation)



Questions